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Local History & Genealogy Department
Lawley Family

BENJAMIN L. LAWLEY

Benjamin L. Lawley was born in Bibb County, Alabama on 17 November 1876. He was the son of Michael Z. Lawley and his first wife Martha Hicks Lawley. Benjamin L. Lawley married first Myrtle Virginia Lawley in Bibb County, Alabama on 24 December 1902. Myrtle Lawley was born in Bibb County, Alabama on 16 September 1880. She was the youngest child of Marion Francis Lawley and his wife Arena Whatley Lawley who were from Shelby County, Alabama.

Sometime between 1915 and 1920 Benjamin Lawley moved his family from Bibb County, Alabama to Mobile County, Alabama. His brother Newton Lawley had moved to Mobile County earlier and Benjamin decided to follow him south. Benjamin's family first settled in the Chunchula and Turnerville communities before moving to the Tanner-Williams community in the mid-1920's. Benjamin's father Michael Lawley and his second wife Loucinda Hicks Sandford Lawley also moved to Mobile County. Michael Lawley had fought in the Civil War in Company F of the 44th Alabama Infantry. Not long after Ben Lawley settled in Tanner-Williams his first wife Myrtle Lawley died on 18 August 1927. She was buried at Palestine Church Cemetery. Ben's father Michael Lawley died 15 April 1929 and was buried at the Turnerville Cemetery in Mobile County.

Benjamin Lawley married as his second wife Mrs. Mittie Cain. She had one daughter Phyllis. Ben and his second wife Mittie lived out their later years running boarding houses on Conti Street and North Carolina Street in Mobile. Benjamin died 26 October 1959 and was buried next to his first wife Myrtle Lawley in the Palestine Cemetery. His second wife Mittie Lawley is buried in Springhill Cemetery in Mobile.

Benjamin L. and Myrtle Lawley had the following eight children: Mayme Louise born 28 February 1904 in Bibb County, Alabama. She married John Allen Byrd and had two daughter's Virginia and Margaret. Mayme died 18 June 1983 and is buried in Mobile.

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Xyr born 2 February 1906 in Bibb County, Alabama. She married Mark Williams and had three children: Charles; Emma; and Alice. Xyr died 16 February 1986 and is buried in the Williams Family Cemetery in Tanner-Williams.

Odie D. born 27 December 1907 in Bibb County, Alabama. He married Mable _____ and had two children: Charlie and Ella Mae. Odie died 5 February 1966 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Horace born 17 June 1910 in Bibb County, Alabama. He fell off a truck and was killed 22 June 1929. He is buried at Palestine Cemetery.

Martha Irene born 22 February 1913 in Bibb County, Alabama. She married Alma Jewel Middleton in Mobile County 8 December 1932. They had one son James Harold Middleton who married Marita Rester and had three children: Donald; Susan; and Karen. Irene died 8 June 1997 and was buried at Joyner Cemetery in Tanner-Williams.

Herbert Eugene born 9 September 1915 in Bibb County, Alabama. He married Sadie Young and had four children: Herbert; Lane; Ashley; and Shelia. Gene died 8 November 1986 and was buried at Citronelle, Alabama.

Lois Maree born 19 May 1918. She married Johnney Miller. Maree had one daughter Alice Maree and nine sons: Rondal; Alfred; Gary; Steven; Benny; Kenneth; Larry; Marvin; and Doug. Maree died 26 February 1971 and was buried at Gulfcrest Cemetery.

Leonard Lane was born 6 April 1921 in Mobile County. He married Althea Seymore. Lane died 19 May 1985 and was buried at Biloxi, Mississippi. They had no children.

Ben and Myrtle had children and grandchildren serve in the military. Many of their great grandchildren have been school teachers. They have descendants all over the United States. (600 words). Submitted by Jewel Middleton. Written by Don Middleton, 1751 Mack Hinton Road, Wilmer, Alabama, 36587. Sources: Census Records, Bibb County, Alabama

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Probate Records, Mobile County Cemeteries, and Mobile County
Probate Records.